What Is Claimed Is:

1. A distribution system having a parent
server and a plurality of child servers, being
arranged to be capable of connection with a
plurality of clients through communication
circuits, so that contents held by the parent
server and/or the child servers are distributed to
the clients; wherein

the parent server comprises:

an unit that receives position information of
the clients and identification information of the
contents whose distribution is requested by the
clients; and

an unit that selects the child server which
holds the contents whose distribution is requested
and which is closest to the client that originates
the distribution request, using the received
client position information and identification
information of the contents, and that notifies the
client that originates the distribution request of
the position information of the selected child
server; and

the child server comprises an unit that
distributes the contents whose distribution is
requested in response to a request of the client
originating the distribution request.

2. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein

said parent server comprises an unit that ascertains the presence or absence of a distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests for said contents from said clients situated in an area for which said child server is responsible, and

said child server comprises an unit that acquires and copies from said parent server said contents that are not held by said child server, on the basis of the ascertained presence or absence of a distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

3. The distribution system according to claim 2 wherein said child server comprises:

an unit that ascertains the presence or absence of a distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests for said contents from said clients situated in the area for which said child server is responsible, and

an unit that deletes from said child server said contents which are held by said child server on the basis of the ascertained presence or absence of a distribution request or the frequency

of distribution requests.

4. The distribution system according to claim
2 wherein said child server comprises:

an unit that deletes from said child server
said contents which are held by said child server
on the basis of the presence or absence of a
distribution request or the frequency of
distribution requests ascertained by said parent
server.

5. A distribution system having a parent
server and a plurality of child servers, the being
arranged to be capable of connection with a
plurality of clients through communication
circuits, so that contents held by the parent
server and/or the child servers are distributed to
the clients; wherein

the parent server comprises an unit that
ascertains the presence or absence of a
distribution request or the frequency of
distribution requests for said contents from the
clients situated in an area for which the child
server is responsible, and

the child server comprises an unit that
acquires and copies from the parent server the
contents which are not held by said child server

on the basis of the ascertained presence or absence of a distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

6. The distribution system according to claim 5 wherein said child server comprises:

an unit that ascertains the presence or absence of a distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests for said contents from the clients situated in the area for which said child server is responsible; and

an unit that deletes from said child server said contents which are held by said child server on the basis of the ascertained presence or absence of a distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

7. The distribution system according to claim 5 wherein said child server comprises an unit that deletes from said child server said contents which are held by said child server on the basis of the presence or absence of a distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests ascertained by said parent server.

8. A computer program product that operates on a parent server in a distribution system having

the parent server and a plurality of child servers, being arranged to be capable of connection with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, said computer program product comprising:

a step of selecting the child server that holds the contents whose distribution is requested and that is closest to the client that made the distribution request on the basis of position information of the client that makes a distribution request for the contents and identification information of the contents whose distribution is requested by the client; and

a step of communicating the position information of the selected child server to the client that makes the distribution request.

9. A computer program product that operates on a parent server in a distribution system having the parent server and a plurality of child servers, being arranged to be capable of connection with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that the contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, said computer program product

comprising:

a step of ascertaining the presence or absence
of a distribution request or the frequency of
distribution requests in respect of the contents
from the clients situated within an area for which
the child server is responsible; and

a step of giving the child server notification
to prompt copying to the child server from the
parent server of the contents that are not held by
the child server, or deleting from the child
server the contents that are held by the child
server, on the basis of the ascertained presence
or absence of a distribution request or the
frequency of distribution requests.

10. A computer program product that operates
on a child server in a distribution system having
a parent server and a plurality of child servers,
being arranged to be capable of connection with a
plurality of clients through communication
circuits, so that the contents held by the parent
server and/or the child servers are distributed to
the clients, said computer program product
comprising:

program code which copies to the child server
from the parent server the contents that are not
held by the child server, or deletes from the

child server the contents that are held by the child server, on the basis of presence or absence of a distribution request or frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the clients situated in an area for which the child server is responsible.

11. A method of distributing contents to clients in a distribution system including a parent server and a plurality of child servers, being arranged to be capable of connection with the plurality of clients through communication circuits, comprising:

a step in which the parent server receives identification information of the contents whose distribution is requested and position information of the client that makes a request for distribution of the contents;

a step in which the parent server selects, on the basis of the received position information of the client and contents identification information, the child server which has the contents that is requested for distribution and which is closest to the client that makes the request for distribution, and notifies the client that makes the request for distribution of the position information of the selected child server; and

a step in which the selected child server distributes the contents whose distribution is requested in response to a request of the client that makes the distribution request.

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12. A method of distributing contents to clients in a distribution system including a parent server and a plurality of child servers, being arranged to be capable of connection with the plurality of clients through communication circuits, comprising:

a step of ascertaining the presence or absence of a distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests in respect of the contents from the clients situated in an area for which the child server is responsible;

a step of copying the contents which are not held on the child server from the parent server to the child server, or deleting the contents which are held on the child server from the child server on the basis of the ascertained presence or absence of a distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests; and

a step of performing distribution from the child server in response to a distribution request for contents held by the child server from the clients situated in the area for which the child

server is responsible.

13. A distribution system comprising a parent
server, a plurality of child servers and a
plurality of clients which are connected through
communication circuits so that contents held by
the parent server and/or the child servers are
distributed to the clients, wherein:

the clients communicate to the parent server
position information of the clients and
identification information of the contents whose
distribution is requested by the clients,

the parent server selects, on the bases of
the position information of the client and the
contents identification information that is
communicated thereto, the child server that holds
the contents whose distribution is requested and
that is closest to the client that originates the
distribution request, and communicates the
position information of the selected child server
to the client originating the distribution request,
and

the client that originates the distribution
request receives the contents whose distribution
is requested from the selected child server, on
the basis of the position information of the
selected child server.

14. The distribution system according to claim 13, wherein receipt performed by said client of contents from said selected child server is conducted using a program downloaded to said client from said parent server when the request for distribution of said contents is made.